



On Thursday, January 5, State Health Commissioner Judith A. Monroe, M.D. visited the South Bend area to follow up with those working to combat obesity issues in the counties that make up Region 2 of Indiana.

Representatives from agencies and/or community groups from Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties attended the two-hour meeting held at the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center campus in Plymouth.

Dr. Monroe discussed how different programs through the Indiana State Department of Health were coming together to promote Governor Daniels' INShape Indiana health initiative to help reduce duplicity in programs and potentially increase grant funding for current and future funding. She said that Indiana currently is in the bottom five states for obesity funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition, she praised counties for working to better the health of their residents even before the INShape Indiana program was launched.

"We wanted to keep the momentum going from the state meeting in the local districts," said Dr. Monroe. "At the state meeting we discovered there are some real jewels in the state and we need to know about them to tap into those resources."

Those in attendance worked on brainstorming for new programs and ways to expand current programs along with mutual support and encouragement for current programs in each county.